

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 9, 1999

LB 149, 813

SENATOR RAIKES: As I recall, maybe something on the order of \$500 per student.

SENATOR BOHLKE: And we had that until LB 149 really straightened some of that out, when we were using those estimates we would see that bounce around a little.

SENATOR RAIKES: Right.

SENATOR BOHLKE: With LB 149, we will see that being more constant and I think that would probably be close.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay, so you expect that you will not see a widening gap between the standard cost grouping cost and the sparse and very sparse.

SENATOR BOHLKE: By using the actual data I think, you know, that we will not see what we saw before with using those estimates.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. Well, it gets to an issue that I wanted to raise, and that is that there are incentives built into the state aid formula to encourage certain kinds of behavior among school systems,...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...mod...or adjustments to make them more efficient. It was not, I think, a desired incentive for the state aid formula to encourage schools to jump sparsity classes, to go from the standard to the sparse, even though right now if a school is interested in getting more state aid that's probably the most effective way to do it. Would you comment on that, please.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Right, it was not developed as an incentive. However, once you change all of those groupings and, because of the cost difference, that certainly raises the issue for some school districts who are looking at it saying, look, I'm sparse, why...why am I not qualifying. And, like I said, last year we had that issue with one...with some of the very sparse school district and now this year in the sparse category. You know,